

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE RELIGIOUS PARLIAMENT IDEA.

The Religious Parliament, held in 1893 at Chicago, has become a fact in history. But it is necessary to spread the idea as a principle of action and as a religious maxim which should receive universal approbation. It is the basis upon which not only peace among the different religions can be maintained, but it also facilitates the investigation into truth in the right spirit, which should be done with conservative tendencies on the basis of fraternity and without flippancy. We would only add that in the Religious Parliament the voice of science should be heard and the religious significance of both scientific investigation and scientific truth be recognised.

The Religious Parliament idea has developed on the soil of America. Here is the country of freedom; people soon began to realise the necessity that the different elements of the population should have their religious needs attended to in the manner which would be most congenial to them and best adapted to their spiritual constitution. Mr. Bonney, in the present number, tells the story of brotherly help which in one typical case congregations of a different faith afforded one another; and instances of a similar kind can be multiplied. It is by no means unfrequent for Jews to assist in building up Christian churches, and *vice versa*, Christian denominations have sometimes extended a helping hand to the Jews, as for instance in one special case, when their synagogue had been destroyed by a conflagration. Mr. Bonney deemed it wise to omit names, because there are always captious fault-finders who might expose the parties concerned to hostile criticism, on account of the very breadth shown by them.

The Religious Parliament idea is a practical application of the Golden Rule in matters of religion; and the first realisation of a Religious Parliament on a large scale is an event which will constitute a new epoch in the religious history of mankind. It certainly has contributed a good deal to bring peace on earth to the men of good will.

P. C.

THE ORPHEUS MOSAIC.

We publish in the present number an article by Dr. Conrad Schick and the picture of a mosaic recently discovered at Jerusalem, in a house belonging to a Mohammedan, west of the Damascus Gate. About five hundred feet northeast of this point, there was discovered six years ago in the house of a Jew another mosaic with an Armenian inscription, indicating that the place was a mortuary chapel, which Dr. Murray was inclined to assign to the time of Justinian; but it may be of later date, and the two mosaics seem to be of the same period.